The London Gazette.

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From Thursday Decemb. 31. to Monday January 4. 1696.

At the COURT at *KENSINGTON*, the 31th of *December*, 1696.

PRESENT

The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

IT having been Represented to this Board by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that it has been Observed every year since this War, that after the Fleet has been Manned, it hath been in a great Measure Unmanned again by Desertion: His Majesty having taken the said Matter into His Royal Consideration, is pleased to Order in Council, That all Mayors, Justices of the Peace, Constables, Headboroughs, Tythingmen, and other Officers in the respective Counties whom it may concern, do use their utmost endeavours for taking up all such Men, as shall from time to time Desert from any of His Majesty's Ships, and send them to the Fleet, the Admiral whereof has Orders to pay them the Sum of Twenty shillings for each Deserter they shall Secure and send to the Fleet.

William Bridgeman.

Warsaw, Dec. 19. The Son of Prince *Sapiha*, Great General of *Lithuania*, came hither the last week to acquaint the Queen, as well as the Primate and the Senate, with the Accommodation made with the Confederated Troops in *Lithuania*, to which the Interest the Queen had with their Principal Commanders, contributed very much. The French Ambassador is not at all pleased with this Adjustment of Affairs in *Lithuania*; and endeavours all he can to keep up the Confederacy among the Troops in *Poland*, to whom he has sent several Sums of Money, and has engaged them to make a Declaration, that they will continue together till the Election of a King is over. However the Senate have sent other Deputies, to endeavour to bring them to a better temper. There is now a perfect good understanding between the Queen and Prince *James*, which does very much advance the Interest of the latter: Some of the Great Men, who are no favourers of it, whereof the great Marescal *Lubomirski* is chief, have by means of their Friends and Vassals, surprised the Fortress of *Brodi* in *Russia*, belonging to Prince *James*, where they found a great Magazine of Arms and Ammunition of War, and 40 Pieces of Brass Cannon, and have likewise seized on a considerable Estate belonging to the Queen; This News was brought hither two days ago; and both the Queen and Prince *James* have made their Complaints to the Primate and Senate. There have been lately several little Dyets held in *Prussia*, but with such disagreement among those that composed them, that they broke up without coming to any Resolution. The Confederated Troops in *Lithuania* are separated; and things are now very quiet in that Dutchy. The French Ambassador has distributed great Sums of Money to make a Party for the Prince of *Conti*.

Vienna, Dec. 25. The Emperor having resolved to augment considerably his Forces on the *Rhine* against the next Campagne, most of his Troops, which return from *Piedmont*, are ordered thither; and 'tis said that the Elector of *Saxony* and other Princes are treating with, about sending a Body of their Troops, besides their ordinary Quota's, to join the Army of the Empire. Prince *Lewis* of *Baden* is now expected here in few days. They write from *Transilvania*, that General *Rabutin* had adjusted all Matters with the States of that Principality, concerning the Quarters and Subsistence they are to furnish for the Imperial Forces during the Winter; and that the Tartars who lately assembled together in *Halachia*, and were thought to intend an Excursion towards *Transilvania*, are retired to *Budziac*, finding their design disappointed by the care that was taken to secure all the Avenues on that Frontier. The Count *de Harrach* is ordered to hasten his Journey to *Spain* upon the Accounts that come from thence of the ill State of his Catholick Majesty's Health. Several Couriers have of late passed between this Court and the *Hague*, and their Dispatches are supposed to concern the Negociation that is carried on there with Monsieur *Callier* the French Minister, in order to a general Peace.

Francfort, Jan. 2. The Deputies of the Six Circles assembled here have now agreed to the number of Forces which each of them is to raise and maintain for the Defence of the Empire; at present they are to furnish 60000 Men, Horse and Foot, who are to serve the next Campagne under the Command of Prince *Lewis* of *Baden*; and if hereafter the Occasion appears to be more pressing, they are to make them 80000; and in time of Peace they are to keep constantly on foot 40000. The French continue their preparations, as if they intended to make some attempt during the Frost; and on the other hand the German Troops are on their guard, and have ordered the Country People to break every day the Ice of the *Rhine* and *Necker*, at such places, where 'tis most probable the Enemy may design to pass those Rivers.

Cologne, Jan. 4. The Lord Viscount *Galway* arrived here the 2d Instant in his way to *Holland*; The Troops he commanded in *Italy*, are to have their Winter Quarters near the *Upper-Rhine*, where they are to serve next Summer. The Garison of *Bon* is reinforced, and more Men will be sent thither if it be found necessary. The Elector *Palatin* raises a new Regiment of Horse.

Hamburgh, Jan. 6. The *Brandenburg* Minister who assisted at the Conferences here for Composing the Differences between *Denmark* and *Holstein*, is gone to *Berlin*, and the Saxon Minister to *Dresden*, about their particular Affairs, and till they return there will be little advance made in this Affair. The Elector of *Brandenburg*, and the Princes of *Lunenburg*, intend to augment with several thousand Men, their Forces that are to serve on the *Rhine* the next Campagne.

Paris, Jan. 4. Monsieur *de Harlay*, and the Count *de Crecy*, the French Plenipotentiaries, prepare their Equipages with much diligence; The former makes his much greater than he intended at first; and 'tis believed 'twill not be long before they repair to the place of Treaty, the neutrali-